

## ABSTRACT

A system and method for optimizing network resources in an ATM network wherein existing virtual channel connections ("VCCs") are checked for an available channel identifier ("CID") and network bandwidth in response to a connection request. If a CID and required bandwidth is not available, then a new VCC is established and the requested AAL2 connection is setup. Rather than establishing a new direct VCC, available resources on an indirect VCC may be used.